

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
NSCE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 CG-00
DLOS-09 OES-09 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /089 W
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O P 271646Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0643
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USDEL MC BRUSSELS
USLO SACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13725

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINT, UR, NO, GW
SUBJECT: SOVIET SHIPS VIOLATIONS OF NORWEGIAN WATERS

REFS: (A) USNATO 07190 DTG 261802Z JUL 78
(B) OSLO 3586 DTG 261645Z JUL 78
(C) STATE 187973 DTG 252307Z JUL 78

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANCE OF REF C WITH DR. FREDO DANNENBRING, HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF NATO AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

2. DANNENBRING SAID THE FRG HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF REPORTS ON THE SOVIET VIOLATIONS FROM ITS EMBASSY IN OSLO. BASED ON THESE, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE FRG TO DRAW FIRM CONCLUSIONS REGARDING SOVIET MOTIVES. IT WAS NOT EVEN CLEAR WHETHER THE VIOLATIONS REPRESENTED A DELIBERATE PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR. DANNENBRING SAID THE FRG WOULD TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE VIOLATIONS AND WOULD RESERVE JUDGEMENT UNTIL ALL THE FACTS WERE IN.

3. DANNENBRING SAID THE FRG HAD THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WISHED TO HANDLE THE ENTIRE MATTER IN A LOW KEY WAY, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S JULY 21 STATEMENT TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN PRESENTED "IN A MILD MANNER".

4. DANNENBRING WAS OF THE VIEW THAT ANY POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION IN NATO FORA SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE INITIATIVE OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

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5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM BOTH REF B AND OUR CONVERSATION WITH DANNENBRING THAT A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE VIOLATIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH THE FACTS AVAILABLE TO US ARE LIMITED, WE TEND TO CONCUR WITH OSLO'S RECOMMENDATION IN REF B, AS WELL AS WITH DANNENBRING'S VIEW THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER IN NATO SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE INITIATIVE OF THE NORWEGIANS. MEEHAN

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